

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-77. (cancelled).

78. (currently amended) A method of administering a biologically active protein which is not insulin to a subject, said method comprising

topically applying to the skin or epithelium of the subject a composition comprising the protein in conjunction with an effective amount of a positively charged carrier, [[said]]the positively charged carrier comprising a positively charged backbone having attached positively charged branching efficiency groups $[[,]]$ ;

wherein the biologically active protein is not modified by covalent attachment to a negatively charged backbone and

wherein the association between the positively charged carrier and the biologically active protein is non-covalent directly contact to form a non-covalent complex;

wherein the positively charged backbone comprises a member selected from the group consisting of polyalkyleneimine, a positively charged polypeptide, a peptoid, an electronic mimic of a polypeptide and a steric mimic of a polypeptide;

wherein the positively charged efficiency groups are amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of (gly)<sub>p</sub>-RGRDDRRQRRR-(gly)<sub>q</sub>, (gly)<sub>p</sub>-YGRKKRRQRRR-(gly)<sub>q</sub>, (gly)<sub>p</sub>-RKKRRQRRR-(gly)<sub>q</sub>, (gly)<sub>n1</sub>-(gly)<sub>n2</sub>, gly<sub>3</sub>-arg<sub>7</sub>, GGGRKRRQRRR, and (gly)<sub>n3</sub>-(arg)<sub>n4</sub>,

wherein the subscripts p and q are independently an integer from 0 to 20,

wherein n1 is an integer from 0 to 20 and n2 is an odd integer from about 5 to about 25, and

wherein n3 is an integer from 3 to about 5 and n4 is an odd integer from about 7 to about 17.

79. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 78 wherein the composition provides greater transdermal delivery of the biologically active protein relative to the biologically active protein[[agent]] in the absence of the carrier.

80. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 79 in which the biologically active protein has therapeutic activity.

81.-87. **(cancelled).**

88. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 80 in which the composition is a controlled release composition or sustained release composition.

89. **(cancelled).**

90. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 80 in which the therapeutic biologically active protein is a botulinum toxin.

91. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin is selected from botulinum toxin serotypes A, B, C, D, E, F and G.
92. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin comprises a botulinum toxin derivative.
93. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin comprises a recombinant botulinum toxin.
94. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin is administered to provide an aesthetic and/or cosmetic benefit to the subject.
95. **(withdrawn)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin is administered to the subject for prevention or reduction of symptoms associated with muscle spasm or cramping.
96. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin and the positively charged carrier are administered topically to a site on the face of the subject.
97. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin and the positively charged carrier are administered topically to a site on the subject other than the face.

98.-240. (cancelled).